

Amendments To The Specification

Please substitute the following amended paragraphs for the original paragraphs having the same number.

[0002] Metered mail is often posted by weighing individual parcels, computing the necessary postage based on the weight and then applying the postage to the parcel. Postage is typically applied to the parcel by printing the postage directly on the parcel or by printing the postage on a label and then affixing the label to the parcel. In some systems for processing bulk mail, the weight of each parcel in a group of identical parcels is approximated by weighing or computing the weight of the inserts and the envelope and then adding these weights. Postage is set based on the computed weight of each parcel. In another system for approximating the weight of a parcel, described in copending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/150,487 filed September 9, 1998, a printing device accesses a database of weights for different types of print media and envelopes to compute the weight of the parcel. The printing device is programmed to determine the postage corresponding to a particular print job based on the weight of the paper or other print media that is used for that print job, the number of sheets printed and the envelope into which the sheets will be inserted for mailing. The present invention was developed in an effort to improve on existing techniques for approximating the weight of a parcel in postage computing systems.

[0016] An optional scanner 40 or other measuring device may be used to detect the planar size of the parcel. The scanner detects the planar size of the envelope and, inferentially, the planar size of the media contained in the envelope. If the size of the envelope and media is detected with scanner 40, it is not necessary for the computer to know this size information in advance to compute ~~to compute~~ weight and, therefore, postage from the thickness measurement. In the law firm example described above, the user need only key in a run of 20# bond tri-fold sheets. The scanner will detect the Standard No. 1 size envelope and the A4 size paper.